



Ifw

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: GALLOWAY, Edward L.; PETERSEN, Eric; GOLIAS, Tipton

SERIAL NO.: 10/792,025

ART UNIT: 3731

FILED: March 3, 2004

EXAMINER: Sonnett, K.

TITLE: LOAD-CONTROLLED DEVICE FOR A PATTERNED SKIN INCISION

Amendment A: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 - 20 (canceled). Please cancel Claims 1 - 20 and substitute Claims 21 - 37 therefor as follows.

21. (new) A skin incision device comprising:

a casing having a slot formed at a bottom surface thereof, said bottom surface suitable for placement against the skin;

a cover positioned over said casing, said cover being slidable in a direction transverse to a plane of said bottom surface of said casing;

a blade pivotally positioned within said casing generally adjacent said slot, said blade having a pre-actuated position and a post-actuated position;

an actuator means anchored to said casing, said actuator means being actuatable by slidable movement of said cover toward said bottom surface, said actuator means for converting transverse movement of said cover into horizontal movement of said actuator means, said actuator means engaging said blade at said pre-actuated position through said post-actuated position such that at least a portion of said blade extends outwardly of said slot during the movement between said pre-actuated position and said post-actuated position; and

a carriage means anchored to said casing and pivotally attached to said blade, said carriage means for guiding movement of said blade from said pre-actuated position